made to reduce any difficulties being faced by consumers.

Modern "Customer Service Centres" Have been set-up in all Area Offices. The duplicate bills are now available at all Area Offices for any area, and bills can be paid at any MTNL counter even beyond due date. Payment counters have been opened at almost all Remote Exchange Areas (RLUs).

Depositing of telephone bills has been further simplified by the introduction of the system of payment through Post Bag. The "Revolving Account System" and the "Electronic Clearance System", are schemes which eliminate the requirement of the subscribers to visit any office for payment of telephone bills.

(c) The "Customer Services Management System" (CSMS) is proposed to be introduced in MTNL. This would create a highly automated computerised network in both Delhi and Mumbai, to provide various facilities to the customers.

(d) The CSMS project is likely to be implemented next year.

[English]

Postal Training Centres

331 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Postal Training Centres set up in the country and the number of trainees got training therein during the last year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise and upgrade some of these Postal Centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Department of Post has five Postal Training Centres. The Number of trainees who have been trained therein during the year 95-96, State-wise is detailed in enclosed statement.

(b) The training Centres are well equipped with modern training aids and computers to impart training. The post of Director Postal Staff College is being upgraded from Senior Administrative grade to Higher Administrative Grade.

(c) As part of process of modernisation all the Postal Training Centres have been provided with computers, Electronic typewriters, Televisions, FAX Machines, Over Head and Slide projectors, Electronic Stencil cutter, Franking Machines etc. PTC, Mysore has been provided with RISOGRAPH machine. The capacity of Computers at Postal Training Centre, Mysore have been upgraded. A computer laboratory has been set up to develop Postal oriented software. During the last three years a total sum of Rs 93.45 lakhs for purchase of machinery and equipment and amount of Rs 69.50 lakhs for upgradation of building facilities have been spent under plan funds.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of the State (Circle)	No. of Officials trained in 95-96
1	Assam	338
2	Andhra Pradesh	907
3	Bihar	651
4	Delhi	395
5	Gujarat	1173
6	Haryana	446
7	Himachal Pradesh	238
8	Jammu & Kashmir	84
9	Karnataka	1349
10	Kerala	832
11	Madhya Pradesh	1159
12	Maharashtra	2014
13	North East	153
14	Orissa	594
15	Punjab	461
16	Rajasthan	643
17	Tamil Nadu	1971
18	Uttar Pradesh	666
19	West Bengal	784
	Total	14858

Increase in Frequency of Trains

332 SHRI K.P SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the frequency of some trains with effect from October 1,1996;

(b) if so, the details of these trains;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to increase the frequency of 2421 Up/2422 Dn Rajdhani Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The frequency of following 8 pairs of trains has been increased from October 1996.

1. 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

2. 6043/6044 Madras-Patna Express from weekly to bi-weekly.

3. 6045/6046 Madras-Ahmadabad Navjeevan Express from 6 days a week to daily.

4. 8301/8302 Hirakud Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.

5. 4863/4864 Marudhar Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.

6. 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad Express from weekly to tri-weekly.

7. 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai CST Express from weekly to tri-weekly.

8. 7003/7004 Howrah-Secunderabad Falaknuma Express from tri-weekly to daily.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to increase the frequency of 2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from weekly to bi-weekly on availability of additional Rajdhani rake from Production units.

Introduction of BOLT Scheme

333. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date of the introduction of BOLT scheme by Railways;

(b) the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) the details of private sector participation in the BOLT scheme in different Railway Projects; and

(d) the progress of those projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme was started by the Railways in November, 1994.

(b) To undertake some of the projects through investment by private sector, in view of a sharp reduction in budgetary support for Railways' expansion plans.

(c) The following firms submitted their bids for various projects under BOLT scheme :

Gauge Conversion & Doubling

1. M/s Western India Industries Ltd., Pune.
2. M/s Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd., Hyderabad.
3. M/s Hydron Enviro Systems Ltd., Ahmedabad.
4. M/s Indian Railway Constn. Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
5. M/s G.S. Pandey & Co., Gorakhpur.
6. M/s Mukand Ltd., Thane.
7. M/s Kalindee Rail Nirman (Engineers) Ltd., Jaipur.
8. M/s progressive constn., New Delhi.
9. M/s Tantia Constn., Calcutta.
10. M/s Kalindee Infrastructure Development (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

Railway Electrification

1. M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Madras.
2. M/s KEC (International) Ltd., Madras.
3. M/s SAE (India) Ltd., New Delhi.
4. M/s SPIC-SMO Ltd., Madras.

Rolling Stock

1. M/s BHEL, Bhopal.
2. M/s IDBI, Bombay.
3. M/s IRCON, New Delhi.
4. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
5. M/s BESCO, Calcutta.
6. M/s CIMMCo, Calcutta.
7. M/s Tebma Engg. Ltd., Madras.
8. M/s. BEML, Bangalore.
9. M/s SRF Finance, New Delhi.

Track Machines

1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria.
2. M/s. Engineering Prestressed Antri Unit, Gwalior.
3. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
4. M/s Ameca, Italy.
5. M/s RAUTARUUKKI, Finland.
6. M/s Kershaw, USA.
7. M/s Loram, USA.

(d) Out of a total of 34 tenders for various projects invited under BOLT Scheme, contract has been awarded in four cases (Two for gauge conversion and two for rolling stock). 11 tender cases are under finalisation and 19 have been dropped.

Fare Increased by Konkan Railway Corporation

334. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Konkan Railway corporation has increased the passenger and the goods fare by 40% from September, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). In view of the high cost of construction, maintenance and operation charges coupled with low Internal Rate of